

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #35
December 4, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE.

This week the World Health Organization added one death to the cumulative count of human cases of H5N1 influenza. A previously reported ill individual from Indonesia died. The total count stands at 258 cases and 154 deaths (59.7%).

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The next meeting of the Virginia Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- Deputy Commissioner and State Emergency Planning Coordinator spoke at a PanFlu Planning Workshop in Harrisonburg sponsored by the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League. Over 55 officials from 31 jurisdictions with a population of approximately two million attended. Representatives from the Virginia Departments of Emergency management and Human Resource Management, as well as local government and public relations officials, participated in the conference. The focus was the need for broad agency involvement and public-private collaboration in planning for PanFlu at the local level and the need to address Community Outreach and Continuity of Operations Planning.
- Participated in a multi-jurisdictional PanFlu risk communications exercise at the Council of Governments in Washington, D.C. VDH participants included various federal agencies and regional and local PIOs.
- Developed technical assistance materials for electronic distribution to HDs and three leadership groups to coincide with the CDC/HHS-designated National Influenza Vaccine Week. Target audiences were faith leaders, school superintendents, English and Spanish language talk radio hosts, columnists and other news media.
- Media materials developed for the statewide '06 PanFlu Exercise and beyond have been through the formal approval process.
- Office of Communications staff participated in a conference call to discuss Avian Influenza Communications strategies. The call was hosted by USDA, HHS, DOI and DHS, and involved communicators from state departments of Agriculture, Health, Natural Resources and Homeland Security. The host agencies shared updates to the federal government's communications strategy on future H5N1 detections in wild birds.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Central Region**
 - PIO met with healthcare professionals from Bon Secours Health System to discuss PanFlu training and communication.
 - PIO working with Chickahominy Health District to develop educational outreach materials, including a PanFlu article.
 - Epidemiologist and PIO participated in Career Day at St. Benedict School during which they held a PanFlu information session and distributed hand washing material, PanFlu bookmarks and VDH's PanFlu DVD.
- **Northern Region**
 - Ft Belvoir is conducting a December 7, 2006, PanFlu Tabletop and Mass Vaccination Exercise. VDH reps from the Northern Region are participating.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Alexandria**
 - Met with Inova Alexandria Hospital Emergency Planning staff to discuss "after action" of October drill.
 - Began recruiting process for a part-time employee to assist with pandemic planning.
- **Central Virginia**
 - Staff administered flu vaccine left over from the FluEx'06 dispensing drill to persons at a local shelter/soup kitchen. This location would be part of our outreach to the homeless in the event of a PH emergency.
 - Planner provided guidance to Campbell County Schools in PanFlu plan development.
 - Director provided guidance to Lynchburg City Schools in PanFlu plan development.
 - Director continues to schedule PanFlu talks for various organizations throughout the district. Talks are currently scheduled through January '07.
- **Chesapeake**
 - Submitted information regarding our Task Force to be included in a newsletter distributed by Chesapeake General Hospital to local health care professionals in December. This will serve to inform them of the Task Force's composition, the health department's role in preparing for an influenza pandemic, and information on how other local individuals/entities can join our Task Force.
 - Task Force reviewed the new American Red Cross (ARC) documents for local applicability and distribution.
 - Conducted a Department-wide PanFlu COOP Coordinating Meeting.
- **Chesterfield**
 - Health Educator made two presentations, reaching approximately 60 workers, at DuPont-Spruance Plant.
 - Continuing outreach efforts to local churches.
- **Chickahominy**
 - Met with Goochland County LEPC PanFlu subcommittee who are forming an action plan for the county, are actively making plans for the county and are addressing special needs groups, businesses, elderly and all citizens of the county. PanFlu Coordinator plans to give PanFlu talks to the Senior Citizens groups later in Jan. through a Senior Coordinator
 - Met with Hanover Schools to discuss PanFlu Planning.

- Discussed running continuous loop DVD for each of the four counties in the District.
- Goochland County Hand Washing Initiative launched. DuPont gave Goochland hand washing solution for all Goochland County schools as a pilot project.
- Attended Health and Medical Sub-Panel of Secure Commonwealth Panel in Richmond
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Director addressed PanFlu planning efforts at a speaking engagement for Virginia Governor Kaine and West Virginia Governor Manchin at the Bluefield Chamber of Commerce.
 - Planner provided PanFlu information, on-line resources, and current update of district planning efforts to two local hospitals.
- **Eastern Shore**
 - Worked on National Hand Washing Awareness Week campaign by sending letters to all elementary schools on the Shore; scheduling three presentations with elementary schools and one presentation with a church; submitting news articles to local paper; recording three PSAs (one specific to hand washing week and two generic), and preparing hand-outs (coloring books, posters) for Glo-Germ presentations at the elementary schools.
 - Created and distributed first monthly PanFlu Newsletter report, which was mailed to over 103 of our PanFlu partners. Working on making this newsletter available on the District's website.
- **Fairfax**
 - Director gave presentation at George Mason University for Avian Flu Conference; displayed PanFlu preparedness exhibit.
- **Hampton**
 - Six POD's were opened up over three days to immunize police (actually received immunizations) representing an emergency mass immunization process, numbers to follow.
 - Director talked with Channel 10 about the importance of receiving flu shot this year will forward copy of interview when one becomes available.
 - Planner working with Hampton School District to develop a school plan and an all hazards plan including PanFlu.
- **Henrico**
 - Director participated in the Secure Commonwealth Panel meeting on PanFlu.
 - District continued to work on the after action report from the mass vaccination exercise conducted last month.
 - District sent monthly Public Health Bytes newsletter to community partners via email and blast fax.
 - Epidemiologist sent weekly Avian Flu Update to local hospital ICPs, Richmond International Airport Emergency Planner, and other local partners.
 - Director and Planner met with World Access, an international corporation with over 500 employees in Henrico County, to assist them with their PanFlu plan.
- **Lenowisco**
 - Planner and Epidemiologist attended the Terrorism and Disaster Behavioral Health training in Abingdon.
 - Planner attended the Mountain Media Public Safety Council.
 - Planner and Epidemiologist provided CERT training for AmeriCorps at MECC.
- **Lord Fairfax**

- Planner served on the Design Team and participated in the VDEM Region II Tabletop Exercise in Fredericksburg.
- Planner participated in Shenandoah University Pandemic Planning Group meeting in Winchester.
- Planner worked with local group in drafting initial press release from the Frederick Winchester PanFlu Joint Information Center to advise public of city and county planning to date.
- Director participated in Winchester Medical Center PanFlu planning meeting. Attendees included staff serving as "Administrator on Call" for the hospital, emergency department, pharmacy, supply and safety staff, plus others.
- Director attended "Health & Medical Sub-Panel Governor's Secure Commonwealth Initiative"; shared information concerning "Alternate Care Standards" from this group with the Winchester Medical Centers Continuing Medical Education Committee. The group will explore offering an educational session on this topic to local medical staff.
- **Loudoun**
 - Held PanFlu Task Force monthly meeting.
 - Assisted with preparation of the Loudoun County Administrator's panel presentation at the PanFlu Preparedness: Local Government Officials Workshop in Harrisonburg.
 - Delivered 115 PanFlu informational handout packages to the management of the Leesburg Premium Outlet Mall for distribution to all retail business managers.
 - Provided PanFlu presentation and MRC information for 25 managers and staff of Nissan North America's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. They expressed significant interest regarding worldwide travel risks among their employees.
 - Provided a PanFlu presentation for 12 members of Loudoun County Fire Station #23 in Ashburn.
 - Scheduled a PanFlu presentation for staff and students of Patrick Henry College in Purcellville.
 - Scheduled a PanFlu presentation for the Leesburg Lions Club in February.
 - Provided a PanFlu presentation for 100 senior students at the Loudoun County High School Health and Wellness Fair in Leesburg, VA.
 - Provided two PanFlu presentations during roll call training sessions to 12 officers of the Leesburg Police Department.
 - Provided a PanFlu presentation for 12 senior security managers at America Online (AOL) headquarters facility in Ashburn, VA.
 - Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise ("Code Flu 06"); After-Action Report drafted for review.
- **Mount Rogers**
 - Participated in/assisted with a PanFlu preparedness exercise involving the following: Smyth County Community Hospital, Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute, Mount Rogers Health District, All Smyth County EMS agencies, Mount Rogers Community Services Board, SW Virginia Medical Reserve Corps, Marion Police Department, the local business community and Smyth County Emergency Management. The exercise involved flooding both the hospital and Mental Health Institute with live patients with flu-like symptoms. The exercise was excellent practice, and there were many important lessons learned to enhance pandemic preparedness in Smyth County.
 - Planner and MRC Volunteer Coordinator did an MRC orientation, PanFlu presentation and overview of isolation and quarantine for staff of a Smyth County pediatrics office.

- **New River**
 - In the initial collaboration phase with New River Community College Nursing School, Radford University School of Nursing, and Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine as providers of personnel to supplement a medical reserve corps in the New River Valley.
 - Continuing to make PanFlu preparedness presentations to local civic organizations, faith based groups, extended care facilities, and businesses.
 - In the initial phase of organizing a PanFlu preparedness planning workshop for the Pulaski County, Radford City, and Montgomery County LEPCs.
- **Peninsula**
 - Director presented and answered questions on “Preparing for Pandemic Influenza” to >60 members at a breakfast meeting of the Colonial Capitol Kiwanis Club in Williamsburg.
 - Director presented and answered questions on “Preparing for Pandemic Influenza” to 12 military and civilian healthcare staff at the Branch Medical Clinic, Naval Weapons Station, in Yorktown.
 - Planner met with National Park Service staff for Colonial National Historical Park - Yorktown Battlefield to discuss and review their pandemic influenza planning.
 - Immunization teams supported by Peninsula MRC volunteers held community immunizations events at the Doris Miller Community Center in Newport News and the James City County Human Services Building/Olde Towne Medical Clinic in Williamsburg.
- **Prince William**
 - Held a Long-term care facility meeting to discuss plans for the facilities including PanFlu Planning.
 - Attended Health and Medical Sub-Panel of Secure Commonwealth Panel in Richmond.
 - Manassas City PanFlu Summit Planning Meeting
 - Warehouse planning for surge equipment and supplies.
- **Roanoke/Alleghany**
 - Educator and Planner attended a meeting of the PanFlu committee at Jefferson College of Health Sciences.
 - Educator attended a Hazard Vulnerability Summit sponsored by Lewis Gale Hospital and presented on PanFlu.
 - Planner presented on PanFlu at the Alleghany Local Emergency Planning Commission meeting.
- **Southside**
 - Planner working with evaluators on Mass Flu Vaccination exercise AAR.
 - Health Educator scheduled dates for PanFlu presentations to three civic groups in January and three school PTAs in February.
 - Planner is completing local Hazard Assessments for JACHO for the hospital disaster planner.
 - Planner and Educator reviewing handout material and videos for community and school presentations.
 - Planner and Educator working on lesson plans for communicable disease prevention.
- **Thomas Jefferson**
 - Director met with community PIOs to plan initiation of public education campaign

- Educational Activities this week: Completed TV public services announcements (English and Spanish), two of which have been distributed to local stations (the other reserved for later in Dec); delivered PanFlu educational materials to Greene County schools for distribution; preparing for press briefing on December 12; published “Vital Signs” article in Daily Progress on Seasonal vs. PanFlu.
- Provided update to local emergency preparedness committee on health district PanFlu planning activities.
- PanFlu Coordinator mailed business plan to 3,000 Chamber of Commerce members.
- Revising goals for community work groups- ongoing.
- Plan for business preparedness seminar in February- on going.
- **Three Rivers**
 - Conducted a mass flu shot clinic at Gloucester County Library.
- **Western Tidewater**
 - Epidemiologist and MRC Coordinator began the first PanFlu education session for current members. This session will also be used during orientations for new members joining the MRC.
 - Suffolk Nurse Supervisor and Epidemiologist went to initial meeting with Suffolk Public Schools to establish the Planning and Coordination Oversight Committee. Planner will join the main committee starting with next month’s meeting.